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For further information on the HRK,

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HRK German Rectors' Conference

The Voice of the Universities

German Rectors' Conference (HRK)

Tasks and structure

The German Rectors' Conference (HRK) is the association of public and government-recognised universities in Germany. The member institutions are represented in the HRK by their executive boards and rectorates.

The HRK currently has 268 member institutions, in which around 94 per cent of all students in Germany are enrolled.

The HRK deals with all issues relating to the role and tasks of universities in academia and society, especially teaching and studying, research, innovation and transfer, scientific further training, internationalisation, and university self-administration and governance.

This being said, it is predominantly active in three areas:

1. Opinion-shaping and political representation.

Through the HRK, the university leadership can stay abreast of new developments in the higher education system, discuss issues in research and higher education policy and develop joint positions.

On this basis, the President and Executive Board of the HRK represent the interests of the member institutions in dialogue with politics and administration at Federal and State Government level and in the public sphere.

As well as responding to issues and positions that are already the subject of political and public debate, the HRK actively sets the agenda for discussion.

2. Development of principles and standards in the higher education system

In core areas of the German education system, the HRK engages in intensive dialogue with partners in academia, the Federal and State Governments, employers' associations, trade unions and many others to formulate jointly accepted and long-term norms and standards.

The issues involved include, among others, the fundamental relationship between academic and professional education in the German Qualifications Framework (GQF) and the specific requirements placed on the higher education institutions' examination regulations by the German language test for admission to university for international applicants (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang (DSH)).

3. Services to universities and the public

The HRK assists its member institutions and the public with a range of services. For example, it provides support to member institutions in relation to internationalisation (Audit "Internationalisation of Universities"), the digitalisation of teaching (Higher Education Forum on Digitalisation) and the development of study programmes (Project nexus), provides politicians, the media and industry with in-depth and up-to-date information on the higher education system, especially the courses on offer (Higher Education Compass), and helps students to find the right course (clearing system for study places).

The work of the HRK is based on decisions made by its bodies (the General Assembly, the Senate and the Executive Board). Decisions are developed in the Standing Committees, working groups and project groups and prepared and implemented by the offices in Berlin, Bonn and Brussels.

The HRK represents the higher education sector in the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany, and is a member of the European University Association (EUA).

The financial and legal body of the HRK is the Stiftung zur Förderung der Hochschulrektorenkonferenz.

Informationen on all public or government-recognised universities in Germany, on all undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate study programmes, on all doctoral programmes and on the international cooperation agreements maintained by Germany's universities can be accessed at:

www.hochschulkompass.de

